

Summary of DEP Monitoring Initiative Proposal

Total available Florida 106 monitoring initiative funding – \$329,440

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council and Catalog of Monitoring Programs

- Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council Facilitation - \$50,000
- WaterCat maintenance/population - \$105,000

Replacement / Upgrade of Field Computers - \$100,000

Replacement / Upgrade of Field Meters and Probes - \$74,440

Narrative

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council and Catalog of Monitoring Programs

Florida, like many states, has multiple entities monitoring water resources. These can include Federal, state, tribal, regional, local, research and volunteer monitoring efforts. Florida, with previous supplement grant funding, has addressed the need for better coordination between these agencies through the creation of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (FWRMC) <https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/fwrmc>. Council action led to the creation of a web-enabled statewide Catalog of Monitoring Programs to improve knowledge of monitoring activities for Florida's water resource managers and the general public.

Previous funding supported a contract for a Chairperson / Facilitator of the FWRMC and for the develop a statewide Catalog of Monitoring Programs to improve knowledge of monitoring activities, the WaterCat <https://water-cat.usf.edu/>. We are requesting continued funding to support a facilitator and the ongoing maintenance and population of data into the Catalog.

Florida is requesting \$50,000 for continued facilitation associated with the 2022 - 2026 work of the Council, as all previous supplemental grant funding for facilitation has been used for this ongoing task. Refer to the 2022 work plan for more detailed information http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/DEARweb/FWRMC/Work_Plan.pdf.

Council Facilitation - Minimum Required Elements / Deliverables:

- the annual FWRMC workplan to provide guidance and oversight of the Council for years 2023-2026;
- FWRMC meeting summaries;
- Agendas and outcomes from briefing DEP management on FWRMC activities;
- continued development of FWRMC products, including
 - the Catalog of Florida Monitoring Programs (Water-CAT)
 - the Groundwater Salinity Level and Water Quality Indices

Proposal in Support of DEP Program Enhancements

- workgroup to address Continuous Monitoring issues within the state.
- Coordinate new initiatives in which web-based, editable information sources will be used to allow Council members to update and see information including 1) climate change data and water quality implications, 2) water quality monitoring responsibility, 3) and harmful algal blooms.

Maintain and populate the Catalog of Florida Monitoring Programs (Water-CAT):

FDEP also proposes to continue work with the University of South Florida to maintain and populate the Catalog information (long-term maintenance) to meet public and multiple agency needs. This will include the following: maintaining the site, continued web hosting, and working with individual data providers to populate the catalog. The cost estimated for this maintenance is \$105,000 for 2022 - 2026.

Multiparameter Sondes and Field Computers for Field Work.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposes to continue to replace and upgrade their field meters and to continue to purchase field computers. DEP is seeking funding to replace/upgrade existing field meters and their probes as the equipment becomes antiquated and no longer supported by the manufacturer. Additionally, DEP developed Survey 123 forms during 2020 – 2021 for use on field computers (tablets). The current tables do not support all of the functions necessary for the newly developed forms. These items are critical for site reconnaissance, data collection, logging and transfer of field measurements and observations. These data are used for the determination of the state's statistical surveys and of the impairment status of individual waterbodies. The cost estimates for the replacements/upgrades follows.

The draft costs are as follows:

Activity Description	Price	Comments
Replacement / Upgrade of portable field computers	\$ 100,000	Tablets having more memory and faster processors are necessary to run newly developed forms, transfer data to the ArcGIS Online cloud service, and generate reports using Power Automate Workflows. We estimate we will need to purchase 36 units.
Anticipated replacement / upgrade of existing multiparameter field meters and probes	\$ 74,440	As our older meters become unsupported by the manufacturer, we are transitioning to blue tooth enabled multiparameter sondes which produce higher data quality and allow for direct data transfer to field ready tablets.

Proposal in Support of DEP Program Enhancements
